

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ASUS COMPUTER INTERNATIONAL,

No. C 12-02099 WHA

Plaintiff,

v.

ROUND ROCK RESEARCH, LLC.,

**CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER
AND REFERENCE TO
MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR
SETTLEMENT/MEDIATION**

Defendant.

AND RELATED COUNTERCLAIM.

After a case management conference, the Court enters the following order pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("FRCP") and Civil Local Rule 16-10:

1. All initial disclosures under FRCP 26 must be completed by **SEPTEMBER 28, 2012**, on pain of preclusion, including full and faithful compliance with FRCP 26(a)(1)(A)(iii).
2. Leave to add any new parties or pleading amendments must be sought by **NOVEMBER 30, 2012**.
3. The claim-construction hearing will be held on **MAY 1, 2013, AT 1:30 P.M.**
Counsel shall meet and confer and propose a briefing schedule leading up to the hearing. This proposed schedule must be filed by **SEPTEMBER 28, 2012**, and entitled "PROPOSED ORDER RE SCHEDULE FOR CLAIM CONSTRUCTION."
4. For the claim-construction hearing, the parties must isolate no more than **SIX PHRASES** in all claims at issue and limit the hearing to those phrases. All other phrases in dispute

1 will be determined at trial absent further order. In the Court's experience, most patent
2 cases turn on the meaning of only a few phrases. Once defined, the case will usually
3 resolve by motion or settlement. If it does not, then the Court will construe any
4 remaining phrases at issue during summary judgment or, at a minimum, before the jury
5 is instructed. Counsel must conduct the presentations at the claim-construction hearing.
6 Expert testimony will normally not be needed but all sides may have an expert present
7 to address points outside the intrinsic record should they arise. In the briefing on claim
8 construction, please include a precis of the eventual summary-judgment issues and how
9 claim construction differences may affect summary judgment. A tutorial for the Court
10 (to be conducted by counsel only, not experts) shall be set for **APRIL 17, 2013, AT**

11 **1:30 P.M.**

- 12 5. The non-expert discovery cut-off date shall be **JULY 31, 2013**.
- 13 6. The deadline for producing opinions of counsel under Patent Local Rule 3-8 shall be
14 **28 CALENDAR DAYS** before the non-expert discovery cut-off, irrespective of the
15 timeline in said rule.
- 16 7. Subject to the exception in the next paragraph, the last date for designation of expert
17 testimony and disclosure of full expert reports under FRCP 26(a)(2) as to any issue
18 on which a party has the burden of proof ("opening reports") shall be **JULY 31, 2013**.
19 Within **FOURTEEN CALENDAR DAYS** of said deadline, all other parties must disclose
20 any expert reports on the same issue ("opposition reports"). Within **SEVEN CALENDAR**
21 **DAYS** thereafter, the party with the burden of proof must disclose any reply reports
22 rebutting specific material in opposition reports. Reply reports must be limited to true
23 rebuttal and should be very brief. They should not add new material that should have
24 been placed in the opening report and the reply material will ordinarily be reserved for
25 the rebuttal or sur-rebuttal phase of the trial. If the party with the burden of proof
26 neglects to make a timely disclosure, the other side, if it wishes to put in expert
27 evidence on the same issue anyway, must disclose its expert report within the
28 fourteen-day period. In that event, the party with the burden of proof on the issue may

1 then file a reply expert report within the seven-day period, subject to possible exclusion
2 for “sandbagging” and, at all events, any such reply material may be presented at trial
3 only after, if at all, the other side actually presents expert testimony to which the reply
4 is responsive. The cutoff for all expert discovery shall be **FOURTEEN CALENDAR DAYS**
5 after the deadline for reply reports. In aid of preparing an opposition or reply report, a
6 responding party may depose the adverse expert sufficiently before the deadline for
7 the opposition or reply report so as to use the testimony in preparing the response.
8 Experts must make themselves readily available for such depositions. Alternatively,
9 the responding party can elect to depose the expert later in the expert-discovery period.
10 An expert, however, may be deposed only once unless the expert is used for different
11 opening and/or opposition reports, in which case the expert may be deposed
12 independently on the subject matter of each report. At least **28 CALENDAR DAYS** before
13 the due date for opening reports, each party shall serve a list of issues on which it will
14 offer any expert testimony in its case-in-chief (including from non-retained experts).
15 This is so that all parties will be timely able to obtain counter-experts on the listed
16 issues and to facilitate the timely completeness of all expert reports. Failure to so
17 disclose may result in preclusion.

18 8. As to damages studies, the cut-off date for *past damages* will be as of the expert report
19 (or such earlier date as the expert may select). In addition, the experts may try to
20 project *future damages* (*i.e.*, after the cut-off date) if the substantive standards for
21 future damages can be met. With timely leave of Court or by written stipulation, the
22 experts may update their reports (with supplemental reports) to a date closer to the time
23 of trial.

24 9. At trial, the direct testimony of experts will be limited to the matters disclosed in
25 their reports. Omitted material may not ordinarily be added on direct examination.
26 This means the reports must be complete and sufficiently detailed. Illustrative
27 animations, diagrams, charts and models may be used on direct examination only if
28 they were part of the expert’s report, with the exception of simple drawings and

1 tabulations that plainly illustrate what is already in the report, which can be drawn by
2 the witness at trial or otherwise shown to the jury. If cross-examination fairly opens
3 the door, however, an expert may go beyond the written report on cross-examination
4 and/or redirect examination. By written stipulation, of course, all sides may relax these
5 requirements. For trial, an expert must learn and testify to the full amount of billing
6 and unbilled time by him or his firm on the engagement.

7 10. To head off a recurring problem, experts lacking percipient knowledge should avoid
8 vouching for the credibility of witnesses, *i.e.*, whose version of the facts in dispute is
9 correct. This means that they may not, for example, testify that based upon a review of
10 fact depositions and other material supplied by counsel, a police officer did (or did not)
11 violate standards. Rather, the expert should be asked for his or her opinion based —
12 explicitly — upon an assumed fact scenario. This will make clear that the witness is
13 not attempting to make credibility and fact findings and thereby to invade the province
14 of the jury. Of course, a qualified expert can testify to relevant customs, usages,
15 practices, recognized standards of conduct, and other specialized matters beyond the
16 ken of a lay jury. This subject is addressed further in the trial guidelines referenced in
17 paragraph 18 below.

18 11. Counsel need not request a motion hearing date and may notice non-discovery motions
19 for any Thursday (excepting holidays) at 8:00 a.m. The Court sometimes rules on the
20 papers, issuing a written order and vacating the hearing. If a written request for oral
21 argument is filed before a ruling, stating that a lawyer of four or fewer years out of law
22 school will conduct the oral argument or at least the lion's share, then the Court will
23 hear oral argument, believing that young lawyers need more opportunities for
24 appearances than they usually receive. Discovery motions should be as per the
25 supplemental order referenced in paragraph 18 and shall be expedited.

26 12. The last date to file dispositive motions shall be **SEPTEMBER 12, 2013**. No dispositive
27 motions shall be heard more than 35 days *after* this deadline, *i.e.*, if any party waits
28

1 until the last day to file, then the parties must adhere to the 35-day track in order to
2 avoid pressure on the trial date.

3 13. The **FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE** shall be at **2:00 P.M.** on **OCTOBER 21, 2013**.

4 Although the Court encourages argument and participation by younger attorneys, lead
5 trial counsel must attend the final pretrial conference. For the form of submissions for
6 the final pretrial conference and trial, please see paragraph 18 below.

7 14. A **JURY TRIAL** shall begin on **OCTOBER 28, 2013**, at **7:30 A.M.**, in Courtroom 8,
8 19th Floor, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, 94102. The trial
9 schedule and time limits shall be set at the final pretrial conference. Although almost
10 all trials proceed on the date scheduled, it may be necessary on occasion for a case to
11 trail, meaning the trial may commence a few days or even a few weeks after the date
12 stated above, due to calendar congestion and the need to give priority to criminal trials.
13 Counsel and the parties should plan accordingly, including advising witnesses.

14 15. Counsel may not stipulate around the foregoing dates without Court approval.

15 16. While the Court encourages the parties to engage in settlement discussions, please do
16 not ask for any extensions on the ground of settlement discussions or on the ground that
17 the parties experienced delays in scheduling settlement conferences, mediation or ENE.
18 The parties should proceed to prepare their cases for trial. No continuance (even if
19 stipulated) shall be granted on the ground of incomplete preparation without competent
20 and detailed declarations setting forth good cause.


21 17. To avoid any misunderstanding with respect to the final pretrial conference and trial,
22 the Court wishes to emphasize that all filings and appearances must be made — on pain
23 of dismissal, default or other sanction — unless and until a dismissal fully resolving the
24 case is received. It will not be enough to inform the clerk that a settlement in principle
25 has been reached or to lodge a partially executed settlement agreement or to lodge a
26 fully executed agreement (or dismissal) that resolves less than the entire case. Where,
27 however, a fully-executed settlement agreement clearly and fully disposing of the entire
28 case is lodged reasonably in advance of the pretrial conference or trial and only a

1 ministerial act remains, the Court will arrange a telephone conference to work out an
2 alternate procedure pending a formal dismissal.

- 3 18. If you have not already done so, please read and follow the “Supplemental Order to
4 Order Setting Initial Case Management Conference in Civil Cases Before Judge
5 William Alsup” and other orders issued by the Clerk’s office when this action was
6 commenced. Among other things, the supplemental order explains when submissions
7 are to go to the Clerk’s Office (the general rule) versus when submissions may go
8 directly to chambers (rarely). With respect to the final pretrial conference and trial,
9 please read and follow the “Guidelines For Trial and Final Pretrial Conference in Civil
10 Jury Cases Before The Honorable William Alsup.” All orders and guidelines
11 referenced in the paragraph are available on the district court’s website at
12 <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov>. The website also includes other guidelines for
13 attorney’s fees motions and the necessary form of attorney time records for cases
14 before Judge Alsup. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may contact Deputy
15 Clerk Dawn K. Toland at (415) 522-2020 to learn how to pick up a hard copy.
- 16 19. This matter is hereby **REFERRED** to **MAGISTRATE JUDGE DONNA RYU** for
17 **SETTLEMENT/MEDIATION**, the Court believing that such a conference would be more
18 effective in settling the present case than any other avenue.
- 19 20. All pretrial disclosures under FRCP 26(a)(3) and objections required by FRCP 26(a)(3)
20 must be made on the schedule established by said rule.

21
22 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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24 Dated: September 6, 2012.

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27 WILLIAM ALSUP
28 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE